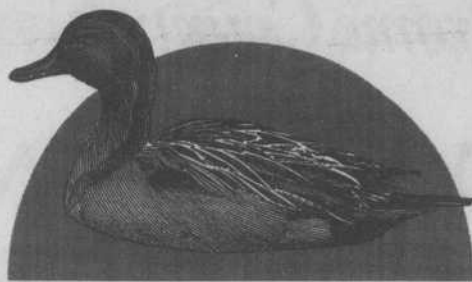


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THE LARGEST CIRCULATION WEEKLY IN BROME-MISSISQUOI

Aunt Becky still lurking in hills beyond?

*Concordia prof
Lallier brings legend
to life*

By Murielle Parkes
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
SOUTH BOLTON

Margaret Bloomfield can see Becky whenever she looks out her window. That's because Becky, who was Rebecca Holland and a great, great aunt to the South Bolton resident, is also a small mountain. Known as Mount Becky by cartographers and as Aunt Becky by locals, she presides over the landscape north east of Potton Springs, while watching over the family homestead on East River Road and preserving a nearly two-century-old legend that bespeaks of romance and intrigue.

The area is steeped in Holland history. "It was all Hollands (grandfather Isaiah and his two brothers, David and Emerson) on this road at one time, more or less," said Bloomfield. Her relatives opened up the (East River) road. "It was cut right out of the woods.. If I saw that lumber now, I would be rich," she says with a laugh.

Rebecca was an even earlier settler to South Bolton. "She owned most of the western side of the mountain," said Bloomfield.

Albert Cameron, Bloomfield's brother, remembers stories about Becky. She was an outdoors girl, a "maiden lady who never got married," and she loved that mountain, he said. It was said that she had a little riding horse who pastured on it. "No matter where he was, if he heard her voice, he'd come galloping down the mountain, and then they'd go riding through the woods."

Bloomfield lives on the family homestead. She is the last of a long line of Hollands who have lived there. Her roots go back four generations to



MURIELLE PARKES/CORRESPONDENT

Margaret Bloomfield enjoyed hearing legend of ancestors.

Richard Holland, who, according to E. M. Taylor's "History of Brome" was "one of the most prominent men among the early settlers of South Bolton." John Hol-

land, son of Richard, built the house somewhere between 1810 and 1820. Bloomfield has lived there all her life.

PLEASE SEE BECKY PAGE 5

Learning to cope with learning disorders

*Brome Lake
Community Services
offers help for
families*

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
BROME LAKE

Learning disorders have been called "the invisible handicap" that affect nearly 700,000 Quebecers.

On March 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., Town of Brome Lake Community Services will sponsor an information evening for parents of children with learning disabilities.

The session, featuring representatives from the Learning Disabilities Association of Bedford, will be held at Community Services located at 383 Knowlton Road in Knowlton.

Literature from L'Association Québécois pour les Troubles d'Apprentissage (AQETA), a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness and bring resources to those afflicted with these disabilities, broadly characterizes these disorders as a malfunctioning of the brain's normal mechanisms for collecting and processing information.

"Learning disorders are not disorders

PLEASE SEE PAGE 3



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BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 1

Town of Brome Lake Community Services will hold an 'Information Evening' for parents at 383 Knowlton Rd., Knowlton from 7 to 9 p.m., sponsored by The Learning Disabilities Association of Bedford. Learning disabilities are not new, understanding them is! For more information call Mary Ann Albert, 242-2020.

March 4

Eastern Townships Disabled Skiers Foundation are pleased that Her Excellency, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec Lise Thibault will be participating in races and banquet at 6th Annual E.T.D.S. Challenge at Owl's Head, Mansonville, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information contact Peter Treacy at 243-5985.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 77 'Flea Market' at 77 Lewis St., Waterloo, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables, \$10. Please reserve early. Call 539-5110 or 539-0005. Everyone welcome! Canteen on premises.

March 5

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #158 'Western Breakfast, All You Can Eat' at 2 Curley St., Sutton, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission: \$5 per person, children under 10, \$2.50. All welcome.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Cowansville 'Breakfast' at 120 Davignon St., Cowansville, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone welcome!

Benefit Pancake Breakfast at La Brasserie de la Riviere, 204 River St., Cowansville, 9 - 11:30 a.m. All proceeds will be used to purchase electric beds for the four residential and long-term

care centres of La Pommeraiie. Tel. Maryse Vaudry or Judith Paquet, (450) 263-5142.

March 6

The Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley will hold their next meeting at the Auberge West Brome, 128, Rte., 139, West Brome at 2 p.m. Guest Speaker: Nancy Hayes, President of Unicef Canada. Topic: 'A Global Agenda for Children - Past Accomplishments and Future Developments. For more information, tel. (450) 266-7552.

March 7

Pancake Supper, sponsored by Knowlton Oddfellows, Lodge #28 at 476 Knowlton Rd., Knowlton, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Cost, \$5. All welcome!

Pancake Supper at St. James Anglican Church Hall, Stanbridge East at 5:30 p.m. A selection of pancakes served with pure maple syrup, sausages, tea & coffee for a cost of \$5.

Pancake Supper at Iron Hill Anglican Trinity Church, 5 p.m. in the church hall. \$5. Everyone welcome!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Emmanuel United Church, 203 Main St., Cowansville from 5 - 7 p.m. All the pancakes, maple syrup and ham you can eat as well as dessert and beverages. Cost: \$5, children 5 - 10, \$3. children under 5, free. All welcome!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Grace Anglican Church, 53 Principale Sud., Sutton, 5:30 - 8 p.m. Adults, \$6, children, \$3. Pancakes, sausages and dessert. Sponsored by the men of Grace Church. All welcome!

March 8

Internet General Information Evening at the Legion Community Centre (Club Net), 383 Knowlton Road, Knowlton from 7 - 8 p.m. Free. For schedule of subsequent topics, call the Community Centre at (450) 242-2000.

March 25

ADVANCE NOTICE: Flea Market at Oddfellows Hall, sponsored by Lodge #28 at 476 Knowlton Rd., from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables available, canteen on premises. Contact, Frank Matthews, (450) 243-5736.

April 15

Flea Market sponsored by, Colfax Rebekah Lodge, #29 at Oddfellows Hall, 476 Knowlton Rd., Knowlton, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Canteen on premises. For information, (450) 243-5480.

ARTS CALENDAR

March 9 through 19

Knowlton Players proudly present 'Move Over Mrs. Markham', a comedy play by Ray Cooney and John Chapman directed by Bill Jarand at Knowlton Pub Playhouse at 8 p.m. Pettes Memorial Benefit Performance held on opening night, March 9. All profits donated to library. Matinees, March 12 & 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets, adults, \$7; children under 13, \$5. Reservations, (450) 263-1060 or tickets, 243-6128.

CHURCH SERVICES

'WORLD DAY OF PRAYER', FRIDAY, MARCH 3

World Day of Prayer at Knowlton United on Friday, March 3rd at 2 p.m. All welcome.

World Day Of Prayer at Eglise Ste. Therese, 207 rue Ste. Therese, Cowansville at 2 p.m. A bilingual, Ecumenical Service led by members of the following churches: Trinity Anglican, Ste. Therese, Ste.

Rose de Lima, St. Leon and Emmanuel United. Everyone welcome. Information (450) 263-1450.

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

Knowlton/Creek Pastoral Charge Creek United, Foster - Worship & Song, 9:30 a.m. **Knowlton United, Knowlton - Worship & Song**, 11 a.m. Services led by Rev. Burn Purdon.

St. Paul's Anglican Church

24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. We wish to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Sunday Services, 8 & 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery, 10 a.m. The Rev. Ralph T. Leavitt - Pastor. Allow us to welcome you!

Parish of Brome

St. Aidan, Sutton Junction, 1st Sunday Joint Service with **St. John The Evangelist, Brome Village** at 11 a.m.; 3rd Sunday at 2:30 p.m. **House Church**, (243-6096); **The Ascension, West Brome** all Sunday Services at 9:30; **Holy Trinity, Iron Hill**, Services on 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday's at 11 a.m. and 2nd at 7:30 p.m. (in Church Hall); **St. John Evangelist, Brome Village**, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's at 11 a.m. and 4th at 7:30 p.m. Hymn Sing. All welcome!

Grace Anglican Church Sutton

Warmly welcomes you to join us in Worship of the Lord Service. Sundays, 10:30 a.m. at 52 Principale Sud. The Rev. Tim Smart, Rector.

Trinity Anglican Church, Cowansville invites you to worship and fellowship Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., at 409 South St. This active little church has a nursery and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. and the youth meet once a month at The Connection. Drop in or call 263-2662. May God Bless You. The Rev. Richard Randall.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Do you wish you could read better? Need help with basic math? Call the **YAMASKA LITERACY COUNCIL**. Work one-on-one with a tutor and learn at your own pace. Lessons are FREE, private and confidential. Learning can be fun so why not do something for yourself today? Call Donna at 263-7503.

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CIRCULATION

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Checklist of symptoms helps pinpoint problems

Learning :

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

of intelligence," explained Mary Ann Albert of Lac Brome Social Services. "They are defined as dysfunctions of the central nervous system often seen in a children of average or above average intelligence."

Albert points to AQETA's published list of achievers who are now believed to have had some type of learning disorder, a list that includes Napoleon, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci and Virginia Woolf, to name a few. Current estimates by the association suggest that 10 to 15 per cent of the general population have some sort of learning disorder, many of which are never diagnosed.

She gave a short checklist of symptoms that may indicate the presence of a disorder such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), hyperactivity or dyslexia.

"Look for things like a short attention span, poor memory (the inability to remember from lessons from one day to the next), a delay in development, deficits in skills such as reading, writing or math, difficulty in following oral instructions, lack of social adeptness or behavioral problems," she said. "These kids often say 'No matter how hard I try, I just can't'. A lot of kids go undiagnosed. It's easy to see when a kid has a classic case of ADD, but some-

times, disorders are more subtle and harder to catch."

She added that schools, under intense budgetary pressures, may now be testing and confirming the most obvious cases, while milder cases slip through the cracks.

The parents of these kids are often frustrated as they see their children struggling to keep up with their peers. When not placed into a proper environment, they may suffer from low self-esteem that plays out as bad behavior, anger or indifference to learning.

The March 1 evening session is designed for both parents of diagnosed children and those who suspect their child may have an undiagnosed learning disorder.

Laurent Beauvais, President of AQETA (Bedford branch) will introduce the organization as well as some of the services available, including active listening support, the company of others with learning disorders, video information, workshops, loans of learning materials, information on psychological evaluation, respite and educational outings.

Albert said that peer and professional feedback is critical to helping families cope with the challenge of a child or children with learning disorders. "We want parents to know that they are not alone."

Learn more about learning disorders on the Internet

By Caroline Kehne

RECORD CORRESPONDENT

The internet provides a wealth of information and support for those seeking information on learning disorders.

For information on or pertaining to services offered within Quebec, check out the AQETA website

(<http://edu-ss10.educ.queensu.ca/~lda/aqeta.calend.htm>).

AQETA (L'Association Québécoise des Troubles d'Apprentissage) provides a list of services and regional organizations serving adults or children with learning disorders.

Although the site is predominantly French, its literature section contains a comprehensive list of papers available through the organization in English.

There are many other Web sites with information on learning disorders.

"Teens Helping Teens" (at www.ldteens.org) is a website designed by and for dyslexic teens that exhibits poetry, writing photography and artwork by teens with learning disabilities.

For general information, go to www.ldonline.org. This site gives addresses of associations in the U.S. and Canada, audio clips and comprehensive resource lists. It also includes an on-line magazine "The Kid Zone" designed for kids with learning disabilities. Another source for books, videos and resources on learning disabilities is LD Resources (www.ldresources.com).

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If you wish to become a foster family or simply need more information, please contact Mr. Steven Gosselin at the Cowansville office of Les Centres jeunesse de la Montérégie at 263-4990 or 1-800-363-8966.



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A few pointers on winter and spring driving

What season is it anyway?

Last week the folks at Yokohama Tires invited me and a group of automotive

reporters out to a racetrack in St-Eustache to compare their tires with some of the other leading brands. Figuring that the last thing you'll want to read about at this time of the year is buying winter tires, I'll hold off on the test results until, say, October.

But I did pick up a few pointers you might find useful in whatever we get for weather over the next few weeks.

Here's a bit of what I found out:

- Check your tire pressure regularly. A drop of 10 degrees Celsius will result in a loss of 2 pounds of tire pressure. That increases tire wear and gives your car more of an appetite for gas. The best time to check your tire pressures is first thing in the morning, with your car parked outdoors. This is sound advice, no matter what time of year it is.

- Plan ahead when driving on snow and ice, always trying to make sure your car is doing only one thing at a time. It should be either braking, steering or accelerating, but never more than one of those functions at a time.

- If you get stuck, avoid spinning the tires as much as possible. The spinning causes friction, which in turn melts the snow and creates ice, making your situ-

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ation worse.

- Install winter tires in sets of four. Replace your winter tires when the tread depth reaches 4 millimetres (5/32 of an inch).

SPRING SOON?

Of course the recent spring-like conditions also have us thinking warmer thoughts. A tip for storing your winter tires, something you should be able to do in a month or so:

Store your tires in bags away from sources of grease and other chemicals. If they are on rims of their own, reduce the air pressure by about half. Store tires flat, to prevent bending the rubber and steel belts out of shape.

Winter tires are designed for just that. Designed to be soft in cold temperatures, they will be less stiff in warmer weather. That softness also means they will wear a lot faster, and won't handle as well in an emergency. Remember, winter tires are designed for just that.

As I said earlier, you're probably not thinking about the rigors of winter. But the recent warm weather has been providing us with some rough reminders of the road ahead.

So while bare pavement may provide the temptation to drive fast, there's already an extensive collection of potholes out there to slow you down. Remember a few weeks back when I talked about alignments? Well these road conditions are prime for wrecking



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

Your driving needs may not be as rigorous as those of the pros at last weekend's Michelin Ice Challenge in Sherbrooke, but it's still a good idea to be prepared for winter conditions.

the way your car tracks down the road. That means costing you more in repairs, gas, tires and so on.

Shock absorbers also take a serious beating during the spring thaw. While most drivers think of shocks as devices aimed at providing comfort, they also play a vital role in the handling of your car. Don't mess around with blown shocks, get them replaced.

There's not much you can do to avoid

the pitfalls of spring except drive carefully. Slow down, and try to steer clear of the worst potholes and frost heaves. Just remember to avoid steering into oncoming traffic to avoid that nasty looking hole in the road.

Considering that it's anybody's guess what we'll get for driving conditions for the next few weeks, slowing down a little and showing a little extra caution isn't such a bad idea.



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Lallier heard the legend of Becky 25 years ago

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

much of the time with extended family. "No one else has lived here, she says. "Just us. And I'm hanging in here now."

Come May, Bloomfield will be 78 years old. "If I live that long," she says with a chuckle. "I tell people, I'm just going on borrowed time."

Bloomfield remembers "this and that .. here and there!" However, neither she nor her brother can recall the legend of Aunt Becky. "We did have a nice big family bible (with records), but (it went to a relative) who lives in California," she says. "I don't know as much as I should," she admits.

It's fair to say that she and her brother are delighted to learn of the legend.

Adalbert Lallier, retired professor of economics and political science at Concordia, first heard of it shortly after purchasing the 210-acre wood-lot mountain in 1975. The legend goes back to the early 1800s when the area was first settled by Union Loyalists from the American colonies, remarked Lallier. There were also a few "British" Protestants and Scottish Presbyterians, Irish refugees, escaping oppression and famine, and French Catholics from the Gaspésie, he says.

Everyone belonged to a faith community. One lived, married, died and was buried in it, he noted. "Intermarriage was considered not only 'sinful' but also a 'betrayal' of one's own need to secure for one's own community as many children as possible." Such were the mores of the era in which Rebecca Holland was born.

The mores explain why it would be painful being a Catholic woman "terribly in love" with a Protestant bachelor - who legend said belong to one of the seven

"major" Union Loyalists (Protestant families) in the area.

It is reasonable to believe that Becky was a Catholic, given that her forefathers came from Ireland. However, Bloomfield "never heard of any Catholics being Catholic. They were Methodists .. that's why I never had any fun dancing," she says with a laugh. Still, Becky lived a long time ago, and she's willing to concede that Becky could well have been Catholic.

Most important, the two lovers belonged to different religions.

Lallier's retelling of the legend has observers noting the two exchanging furtive glances and touching hands. However, the romance was curtailed by the two sets of parents who forbade any closer encounters.

Becky, who wanted no other, and her young man, "who is said to have approached no other woman in the community," became in-

creasingly desperate. Indeed, the love affair began to take on the appearance of a tragedy in the making, said Lallier.

One winter night, the two stole away to spend a bit of time together. A major snowstorm was approaching, so they decided to return to their respective homes.



MURIELLE PARKES

Margaret Bloomfield's family has deep roots in region.

The young man reached his destination. But not Becky.

Instead she walked to the top of the mountain to ask God's help to marry her true love. Alas, she got lost in the snowstorm, and disappeared "without a trace of ever being found."

Legend records a full moon the next night with neighbours claiming to hear at midnight a female voice painfully wailing for her beloved. Twenty-five years ago, Lallier was told the event was still happening during a full moon.

Lallier has a mystical side to him. "I owned the hill for seven years and

learned how to listen to the trees and the birds, even hearing during some of those clear full-moon nights a wailing coming from the top of the

mountain." He also "discovered a couple of really old and unused pathways, one of which led right towards the top of the mountain, but was covered with lots of underbrush and smaller trees" - the path used by Becky, perhaps? "But I never had the privilege of meeting with 'Aunt Becky' or her spirit."

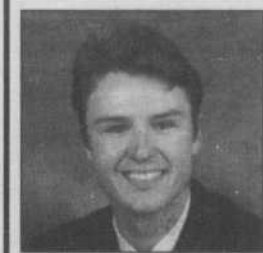
On hearing the story of Aunt Becky, Bloomfield agreed it was wonderfully romantic. "Maybe I'll do something romantic myself," she quipped. "To put on my tombstone."



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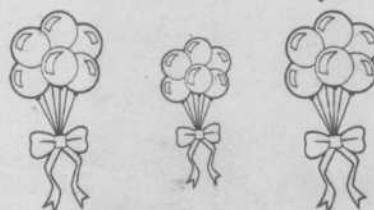
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leave theatre alone

DEAR EDITOR

In support of the letter by Signy Stephenson, Feb. 9, "I Can See It Now".

I certainly can just visualize such a mess, this move of our own Lac Brome Theatre to a ball park atmosphere we could be catapulted into, my, oh my! We might as well start reminiscing about the last great Theatre Lac Brome

the way it was. I visualize interested theatre goers just a thing of the past. Knowlton in a faint vale of the light waiting for a surge of hope. I guess all good things we try to keep are always snatched by unconcerned people in control or out of control as the case must be. Please leave the Lac Brome Theatre alone, until a logical move is approached.

CATHERINE AND MICHAEL BRAULT
Lac Brome

Thanks to helpers of BMP fund-raiser

DEAR EDITOR

On behalf of our annual gathering of neighbours, friends and the BMP Hospital Dinner Fund-raiser, I extend my gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers. The cooperation and enthusiasm made the evening a great success. The annual event at the Auberge West Brome has become a tradition.

To the donors and the suppliers, thank you for your generosity. To all the mayors, councillors and volunteers who served, washed dishes, washed and set-up tables, and worked the entire evening, my eternal gratitude.

Everyone of you made the event a great success. For \$13 where else could you have a great dinner, dance, meet your friends, perhaps win a prize and go home happy.

To everyone - Thank You.

GEORGE BRISTOL

Brome Lake Councillor
P.S. A special thanks to Marie-Claire and the staff of the Auberge West Brome

Lion's Club had plan for land

DEAR EDITOR,

To Brome Lake Mayor Stanley Neil, After reading articles in the most recent issue of the Brome County News, about the proposed construction of a combined theatre-community center at Lion's Park, I was very surprised to note that the Knowlton Lions Club, was not mentioned in either article.

As the Lion's Club were the ones who initially purchased the land and helped develop it as it is today, their exclusion surprised me very much.

In 1966, with the town badly in need of a sports field, the Lion's Club purchased 14.55 acres of land from Mr. Philip Archer Shee, to develop it as a sports facility and then deeded it over to the town with that specific request.

In subsequent years, the club purchased additional land and proceeded to spend approximately, \$250,000 to expand the athletic facilities.

The construction of large building and a 100-car parking lot of the park would deprive us of valuable athletic space, and prohibit further extension of sport facilities.

I also believe that it would be going against the original intent for the use of this land as requested by the Lion's Club when the land was turned over to the town in 1966.

KEITH MIZENER

Past chairman of Lions Park Committee

De l'autre côté de la terre: La Chine

C'est le titre d'un livre qui paraîtra bientôt sur la vie de mon oncle, le Père Prosper Bernard, Jésuite, tué en Chine durant la 2e guerre mondiale.

Le livre est écrit par mon frère qui porte le même nom, Prosper M. Bernard, Ph.D et son fils qui porte aussi ce nom, Prosper M. Bernard, Jr., C.Ph.

Ce livre de 336 pages: De l'autre côté de la terre: La Chine, sera publié en mai aux Éditions Sciences et Culture, à Montréal.

Le livre raconte la vie de Prosper Bernard, S.J. (Na Shi Rong, en Chinois), cet homme, Jésuite, prêtre, canadien, qui est parti en 1938 de l'autre côté de la terre vers la Chine alors troublée par une guerre civile et par l'invasion japonaise. Il a été tué le 18 mars 1943 par un commissaire de l'armée japonaise d'occupation avec deux autres prêtres canadiens.

Le livre contient des cartes géographiques, des photos et des lettres originales ainsi que de nombreux documents en annexe.

En 1983, après quarante ans de silence et à la fin du régime Mao, mon frère a repris contact avec les catholiques de Fengxian. Lui et sa femme ont visité quatre fois le lieu de la sépulture du Père Bernard - ils étaient accompagnés de leur fils Prosper lors de leur dernier voyage. En 1990, en collaboration avec des Chinois, ils ont fait ériger un monument à la mémoire de ces trois Jésuites Canadiens.

Lors de mon propre voyage en Chine en 1976, j'avais essayé de me rendre à Fengxian mais les autorités Chinoises du régime d'alors me l'avait interdit.

Le livre veut faire connaître aux Canadiens, aux Chinois et au monde, la vie de cet autre Canadien qui, comme Norman Bethune, a donné sa vie pour la Chine qu'il a tant aimée. C'est pourquoi le livre sera aussi publié en chinois. De plus, il paraîtra en anglais aux États-Unis en juillet 2000, sous le titre: "In China Forever".

Le livre parle de la Chine moderne, des relations des auteurs avec les gens de Fengxian et des nouveaux liens d'amitiés créés par les affaires et par l'éducation.

Mon frère met sur pied un cours en Administration à la

"China University of Mining and Technology" à Xuzhou, province de Jiangsu, en collaboration avec la Chine. Il a amené des étudiants - MBA pour cadres - de Montréal, en avril 1999 pour un cours sur les affaires en Chine. A la China University, ses cours pour les cadres de Xuzhou débiteront à l'automne 2000.

Ce document de 1100 pages présente un ensemble de lettres écrites par le Père Prosper Bernard, S.J., devenu Na Shi Rong.

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Adventures in the egg production business

Sixteen hens a-laying

COUNTRY SQUIRE

BRIAN EDDINGTON

It may have been inspired in part by the Year 2000 business. Or maybe the example of another neighbour with his pigs and turkeys provided the motivation. Perhaps his thinking was simply that, if you raise your own food, at least you have a better chance of knowing what you're eating.

Whatever the reasons, a second neighbour decided last fall he'd get into the food production business too, in a modest way. The aforementioned pigs and turkeys had scarcely embarked upon their final journeys when the first group of chickens arrived. They were 10 in number, nine black ones and one white...not unlike your average NBA team.

At the age of 16 weeks they were, we were told, about two months away from the start of egg production. But apparently no one told the hens.

Before three weeks passed, we had our first eggs, a few cute little brown things, what Grandmother would call 'pullet's eggs'. (I suppose 'pullet' comes from the French 'poulet'; here's hoping the Office de la langue Française doesn't hear about it.)

It may have been our mountain spring water, or the sweet autumn breezes off the lake. Could be the spectacular sunrises over Foster Mountain, a young visitor who often doesn't get to bed before daylight offered. Whatever the cause, the girls were in full production well ahead of schedule. This early success in turn prompted the proud proprietor to expand his enterprise, and shortly a group of brown-red hens arrived, eight in number.

Before the first snow, we lost two, one from each group, to predators. Since then, the remaining sixteen have been producing at close to 100 per cent capacity. Even in the darkest, coldest times, an average of fifteen eggs a day lay waiting for the collector. They range in color from light beige to deep brown, in curious variations on the usual oblong shape. Some are thick and squat, almost spherical. A few are long, decidedly pointed. One hen consistently brings forth double yolkers. Another must have a misshapen rear, producing oddly-shaped, wrinkled shells, bumped and ridged like a bad caulking job.

Some city friends aren't sure they want to eat our eggs. After all, they aren't snowy white, perfectly shaped, absolutely uniform in size, with pink

numbers pin-printed on the shells. (By the way, how do those numbers get there? Is a tiny printer surgically implanted in each hen's butt? Maybe the guys that put the caramel in the chocolate bars could tell us.)

While more and more people are becoming better informed about what they're eating, there's still a lot of work to be done. Last summer, after watching our porkers frolic in the muck, a first-time visitor remarked, "No wonder they call them pigs!"

A pre-schooler, checking out the milking operation on a real farm, proclaimed to his parents that he'd never drink milk from a cow. Pressed for detail, he replied he preferred his milk in a plastic bag.

After five months together, we are impressed with these laying hens. In terms of efficiency and quality, they're hard to beat. They scratch about happily for the tiniest of edible goodies. Weighing three or four pounds each, they bring forth daily a neatly-packaged, easily-stored, highly nutritious item that represents up to five per cent of their total bulk. All this, with a modest amount of relatively dry, readily disposable waste.

Their bedding remains surprisingly tidy and dry for extended periods. A beakful or two of water each does them all day.

Three or four ducks, on the other hand, can devastate the same area like a horde of invading Visigoths. They insist on bathing in their drinking water, and seem to prefer showers. (Of course, men also prefer showers; it's disgusting to pee in a bath.)

The duck attendant is advised to step

quickly back after filling their reservoir. Bills and heads are thrust to the bottom of the bowl, tossing water all over the body. Next, wings flap in a great fuss, flinging a fine spray about the pen and access way.

Further, a few ducks produce more waste than 16 hens, great gooey globs that bind everything together in a cold, slippery, cement-like mass. And after all this, not a single duck egg in two years. They could learn valuable lessons from the hens.



PHOTO COURTESY WILL ALLEN

The Squire with one of his many prolific feathered friends.

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Carol Krainyk

Volunteers raise funds to purchase hospital beds

CLSC and CSLD La Pommeraiie in need of more long-term care facilities

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
COWANSVILLE

Many taxpayers take for granted that Quebec's comprehensive health care system will provide for all of the needs of its constituents, regardless of cost. This is no longer the case: Community volunteers and charitable donations are playing a more important part in taking up the slack where budgets come up short.

Until the end of March, volunteers working on behalf of Le Regroupement des fondations des CLSC et CHSLD de La Pommeraiie will be raising funds to benefit the area's long-term care facilities.

The campaign, under the honorary presidency of André Meunier and Luc Normandin, will raise funds to purchase beds that will be distributed among the region's four

long-term care facilities located in Farnham, Bedford, Sutton and Cowansville.

"It is not enough to just add years to the lives of the elderly," said spokesperson Susan Deguire. "Guided by this maxim, the residential and long-term care centers (CHSLD) of La Pommeraiie would like to offer a gift to the elderly in the beginning of the new millennium, of which the first year is designated as 'Year of the Elderly'. For those whose health is more and more fragile, a bed is often their total living environment."

Deguire said more than 180 beds are needed for the four facilities. The fund-raising campaign is a joint effort of foundations working on behalf of the four long-term centers of La Pommeraiie: the Volunteer Committee of Sutton, La Fondation Les Foyers Farnham, La Fondation Lévesque Craighead, La Fondation du Centre d'Accueil de Cowansville and The Association of Foundations Les CLSC et CHSLD de La Pommeraiie.

She said most of the area's larger industries have been approached and a telephone campaign targeting the general

public is currently underway to raise money for the adjustable electric beds, which cost more than \$3,500 each. The campaign target smaller businesses next.

Volunteers are also organizing a pancake breakfast for Sunday, March 5

from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at La Brasserie de la Rivière, 204 River Street in Cowansville. All proceeds from the breakfast will go to purchase of beds for La Pommeraiie.

Deguire noted that donors who wish to stipulate that their gifts be used for a specific facility are welcome to do so; unless otherwise specified, donations will be distributed pro rata across the four long-term care facilities. Donations may be made in cash, cheque, or credit card, by lump payment or spread out of several years. All donations are tax deductible.

For additional information concerning the gifts, contact Susan at (450) 263-6286 or by e-mail at susandeguire@videotron.ca.

For further information concerning the March 5 pancake breakfast, contact Maryse Vaudry or Judith Paquet at (450) 263-5142.



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Creek United a growing entity

The annual congregational meeting of the Creek United Church ratified a Steward's decision to open the church balcony and choir loft as a millennium project. This completed endeavour will restore the church to its original capacity. This area is badly needed for special events such as the Christmas Carol Service, some weddings and some funerals as well as any other events calling for a larger seating capacity than now exists.

ORGANIST REQUIRED

With the retirement of Mrs. Jean Webster as organist, after 25 years of dedicated service, the church is now on the lookout for a church organist. Creek is very fortunate to have Don Patriquin, Don Wilson and Judy Gray on a part-time basis at pre-

sent.

BRING-A-FRIEND

The congregation is having a "Bring-A-Friend" Sunday on March 19. This service is an opportunity for anyone in the local community to come out and see what makes Creek United such a welcoming, vibrant, growing church.

Other upcoming events are a confirmation class, the spring rummage sale as well as a casserole supper and special Easter events. The Bring-A-Friend Service will be followed by a pancake and sausage breakfast. It is the hope of the church members that many young married couples and their children will turn out for this event. We would like very much to build up the numbers in our Sunday school as well

as the general congregation.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Creek Church Women's Group has opened the new millennium with a fresh slate of Officers.

Nancy Seaman is the new President of this growing group of busy, talented women now numbering 23 members. Lynn Meleg, vice-president, Connie Smith, treasurer, Pat Quilliams, secretary, Florence Burnham, recording-secretary, Anna Eichenberger is in charge of buying gifts for shut-ins and special events. The session has grown to seven members while the Stewards now number 10 members.

It is hoped that the year 2000 will witness the continued growth of this much needed spiritual congregation in the West Bolton, Brome Lake areas.

- Submitted by
Don Seaman
Town of
Brome Lake



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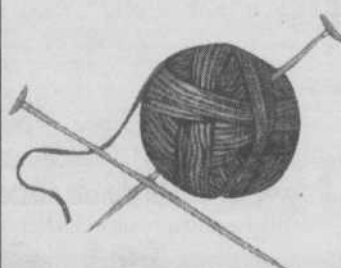
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News

East Farnham UCW meeting

The East Farnham U.C.W. met at the home of Hilda Archer in Cowansville on Dec. 16, 1999 at 2 p.m. with 14 members present and five guests, Rev. Spivey and Eleanor, Doris Nelson, Erica David and Roma Boyd. The President, Rose Monteith welcomed all and thanked Hilda for opening her home. All repeated the U.C.W. Purpose.

The devotionals were conducted by June Royea. She read from the church bulletin about "Advent." The first hymn we sang with Eleanor Archer leading us was, "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." June read an article titled, "As the World Turns Toward Christmas." This was followed by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and all repeating the Lord's Prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary and were approved.

Correspondence: Letters were read from Dorothy Harrowing thanking us for the 50th wedding anniversary card, Eleanor Archer for all courtesies extended to her, Christmas greetings from

Rose Monteith, Ralph Harris in Florida, Roma Boyd thanking us for get well card after she broke her hip. A letter from Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery Youth Program thanking us for supporting them in their trip last year to Jamaica and asking us for photos of any of our members doing U.C.W. work.

Treasurer: Hope Jenne reported a good sum in General Fund. At this time it was moved by Hilda Archer and seconded by Doris Dougall we give \$500 to Board of Stewards, she had re-invested the \$2000 bond. \$200 will be given to the Mission and Service Fund, \$10 to Happenings and \$10 to Memorial Fund in memory of Donna Carter.

The Mizpah Benediction was repeated in unison. Then all enjoyed an exchange of Christmas gifts and delicious refreshments served by Bernice Thomas, Hope Jenne and Norma McLennen. Norma will have the January meeting on January 17, 2000 with Mrs. Archer conducting the devotionals.

June Royea
Publicity Convenor

Waterloo - Judy Arnott

Please take notice that my telephone number is changed to 539-2040 and I am always grateful when you folks call me with news.

Mr. and Mrs. Curly Gamache and Mary Lavers spent the weekend in Chateauguay, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Rick McLellan. A first birthday party has held for Dylan McLellan with quite a few people present. Little Dylan was not feeling well that day. Hope he is feeling better now.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family of the late Gerald Bresee who passed away recently at the B.M.P. Hospital.

Gladys Cook and Everett Arnott were evening guests of Mrs. Lena True and daughter Carol of Bolton Centre. Peggy and Benny Gauvin and daughter Kodie of St. Thomas, Ont., were visiting at

the True home. An enjoyable evening of visiting was spent. There were four generations present.

Mr. Lorenzo Campbell has been released from the Granby Hospital and is spending a few days with Hugh Dalton to recuperate. His wife Lois is still a patient at the Granby Hospital.

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100 Job Opportunities

140 Professional Services

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Golden Age Club news

MANSONVILLE

Club members were treated to a Hamburger Steak dinner at Paul's Pizzeria on Tuesday Feb. 15th, compliments of their club and to celebrate Valentine's Day.

January and February birthdays were celebrated today, Dorothy Woodard, Juliette Laliberté and Ida MacKay were on hand to blow out the candles on their cake.

Mildred Atyeo sends best wishes to all and thanked us for her "thinking of you card," as did George and Kathleen Bailey. George has had the flu, we also received a card from them.

George Hamelin presented our waitress, Donna with our tips, we thanked

Judy and Jerry and then went back to the town hall for our social afternoon.

Rita Marcoux won today's half and half. 500 winners were Karl Steinbach and Cecile Hamelin.

Door prizes were won by Rita Marcoux, Toni Lamothe, Huguette Levoy, Ida MacKay, George and Cecile Hamelin, Juliette Laliberté, Dorothy Woodard, Reginald Landry, Irene Carrier, Mr. Kolba, Louise Oliver, Rita Mossa, Karl Steinbach, Jackie Jersey and Verlie Aiken.

Game winners were George Hamelin, Juliette Laliberté, Dorothy Woodard, Verlie Aiken, Jackie Jersey, Irene Carrier and Ida MacKay.

Rita Mossa

Golden Age Club news

MANSONVILLE

Tuesday, Feb. 22nd, we met at the town hall with a better than usual attendance of twenty-eight members. The reason it was a glorious sunny day and everyone was in good spirits. This was a day to get out and enjoy!

Our dinner was from Paul's Pizzeria, stew and we had vanilla pudding for dessert. Pickles - Huguette Levoy, Johnny cake from George Hamelin a tossed salad and Chesterchicken from the club. Kay Bailey made us a cake. The president thanked all for their contributions.

It was a pleasure to welcome friends who, for one reason or another, were unable to attend during the winter or since before Christmas. Gaston Scheinks underwent surgery last week and was present at today's meeting. Verle Slutz had been in and out of hospital since we last saw him. George Bailey had had a bout with the flu, but happy to say they are all on the road to recovery.

Door prizes were many and the winners were Clifton Jersey, Louise Oliver, Helen Campbell, George and Cecile Hamelin, Edmond Ducharme, Jackie Jersey, George Bailey and Kathleen, Greg and Marian Gauvin, Mary Ann Martel, Juliette Laliberté, Irene Carrier, Ida MacKay, Marian Gauvin, and Alfred Vintinner and Huguette Levoy.

500 winners were Karl Steinbach, Kay Bailey and Helen Campbell.

Game winners were, Verlie Aiken, Flora Jersey, Jackie Jersey, Ida MacKay, Marian Gauvin, Rita Mossa, George Hamelin, and Alfred Vintinner.

Rita Mossa



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Brome County News

Knowlton Players Presents...



The comedic farce "Move Over, Mrs. Markham", the latest production from the Knowlton Players, opens March 9 at the Knowlton Pub Theatre. The production brings together a cast and crew of Elaine Cooper Marsh, Sarah Hoblyn, Lucy Hoblyn-McAuley, Renée-Louise Law, Frank Johnston Main, Roger de la Mare, Steve Trew and Kate Wisdom under the direction of Bill Jarand. The March 9, 8 p.m. opening night performance will benefit the Pettes Memorial Library. Other evening performances take place March 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. Matinee performances will take place on March 12 and 19 at 2 p.m. Contact the library for tickets at (450) 243-6128.

- Caroline Kehne/Record Correspondent

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